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ADVICE

TO THE

NOBILITY, GENTRY, & COMMONALTY

OF THIS

NATION

IN THE

Qualifications and Election

Of Their

Knights and Burgesses,

Their REPRESENTATIVES in

PARLIAMENT.

Humbly offered unto their Serious Consideration,

By **Robert Tell-Truth.**

FAction in all Ages hath been such, and ever had her Tricks, and play'd them generally in the Fear of *God*, and with strange Success; but had the Ill-Luck in *Forty-Eight*, to lose her Mask in that *Pious Tragedy*; and cannot again soon appear with Confidence in her *Religious Dress*, because the *Holy Cheat is* too well known, to Take twice in one Age: And therefore, the *Godly Brethren* begin a New Game, (Look about you Gentlemen!) and not as before, in *Nomine Domini*, but *Populi*; and make the Interest of the People, their Stall now,----as they did plead the Fear of *God* before.

One while we know, 'twas *Puritan* that did swell in its *Generation*; after it was the *Godly*; and then the *Sober Party*: But because *True Sobriety*, and *Godlyness*, were at last a scarce Commodity amongst the *Good Brethren*, as well as the *Wicked*; These Distinctions, by degrees began to wear away, and almost quite to be lay'd by; and now they have a New *Shiboleth*, though but that same Cause: And now 'tis *Country-Man*, and *Courtier*; and in at this *Country-Man's* Door, all Mischief is like to Creep: For though the Word in its Natural Significancy, notes nothing but abundance of Plainness and Honesty; yet being got into the *Saints Dictionary*, it now begins to be of the same Import with any of the other *Godly Names*, and *Phrases*, they

uſe to ſtile Themſelves and Party by. And now 'tis a Word, that, like the *Troj.* Horſe, is *Milite Plenus*, full of Wild-Fire and Miſchief; or, like *Elimas* the Sorcerer, full of all ſubtilty and Craft: For, let a man be the bitterſt Enemy to *King* and *Church*, yet if he can but obtain this Title of *Country-Man*, and ſet him declare at the Head of any Faction whatever, That he will ſtand up for the good of the *Countrey*, in Oppoſition to the *Court-Intereſt*, and his buſineſs is effectually done; he ſhall moſt certainly be Choſen for any Place he ſtands for, and the moſt ſober, prudent, and worthy *Patriot*, and whatever, may not be fit to be a *Competitor* with him. And this I, and many more, can ſpeak upon too ſad experience: For in a little Election in our Parts, I ſaw a moſt incomparable Perſon thrown by, with Shame and Diſgrace, meerly by this Stratagem.

I cannot therefore chuſe, but give the *Country a Caution*, and a juſt Senſe of this New Artifice; and how miſchievous it is like to be to the *King* and *Church*, if not in time detected. And this, perhaps, may be a good Hint for others to deſcribe it better.

The Plot, Gentlemen, was this. To get this *Parliament* by any Arts whatever, Diſſolved: And why? Not that they do any thing that is ſhort of the Wiſdom and Gravity of ſo great an *Aſſembly*; ſaving this, that they are Good *Church-Men*, (and this Crime enough with the *Brethren*) and they will not allow of either a *Romiſh* or *Scottiſh Phanatick*; neither Tolleration, nor Comprehenſion, will they ſwallow: And therefore, no *Parliament*, ſay the *Kirk-Men*; and they muſt be ſent Home again, and a New One choſen. But will the next be better in their Senſe? Yes undoubtedly: For thoſe buſie Men have for ſome Years laſt paſt, ſo poſſeſt the Minds of the People againſt the *Court* and *Biſhops*, and under-hand, the *King* too; and ſo endeared them to their publick Spirited Men, which they called *Country-Men*; that now ſuch Perſons, as they give that Title to, ſhall infallibly have the Peoples Hearts and Votes; and be the *Lads* that muſt make up the next *Houſe of Commons*, and Retrieve the *Godly dying Cauſe*, before it quite Expire, and Bleed to Death. And the Cunning of theſe Deſigning Men is ſuch, that there are but ſome few neither, of theſe Good *Country-Men* (here and there one) that ſhall be cryed up as ſuch: And thoſe are either Earmarked already in the late *War*; or ſuch as are ſprung out of that *Holy-Seed*, or as do ſecretly give Teſtimony of their Antipathy againſt *Court*, *Biſhops*, and (when with a Confiding *Brother*) *King* too. But be ſure, ſuch are as hop-ful, at leaſt, ſhall have this Title conferred on them. So that now the Title begins to have Rebellion, and Phanatiſme in the belly on't; and is all well, fitted for the *Phanaticks* turn, if not better then any other of their *Godly Names* and *Titles* were.

Anſt indeed, it is ſo ſtrangely taking, not only with the credulous *Populacy*, but even the *Old Cavalier*. —— And the *King's* beſt Friends ſuffer themſelves to be impoſed upon, and wheedled by it; and think, there is ſomething that is Good and Uſeful in it, for the Nation; which ſeems to Bode as ill to the *King's* Intereſt, as any thing yet. For which Cauſe it is, that I am ſo bold to trouble the Countrey with my Senſe about it; and how the *One* came to be in ſo much Eſteem, and the *Other* a Note of Infamy and Diſgrace.

The Word *Courtier* in its Primitive Senſe, did note One that did attend on the Perſon of the *King*, or was imployed by him in any conſiderable Office at *Court*; and that did him faithful Service in thoſe Truſts. And originally, it was never any Shame or Diſgrace to the beſt of Men in the *Countrey*, (*Peers* and Others) to Serve at *Court*, and Attend the Pleaſure of their *Prince*, till the *Saints* made it ſo: Nay, it was alwayes thought an Honor, to be admitted to theſe *Courtly*-Attendance; and the *Country* thought, they could not do themſelves a greater Service, than to Chooſe ſuch (neither indeed can they) for their Repreſentatives in *Parliament*, that were near the *King*; That ſo they might have an occaſion to make known the State of the *Country*, and the Wants and Grievances of the *People*, when need required; and to have an opportunity to Redreſs them. But how *Courtier* in our Dayes, ſhould come to ſo degenerate a Senſe, as to denote (if ſome may Expound it) an Enemy to *Law*, and *Liberty*, and *Propriety*, and every Thing that is dear to the People, is ſtrange: And how *Countrey-Man*, which is a Word of great *Plainneſs*, *Integrity*, and *Loyalty*, if Honeſt Men may gloſs it; and how, I ſay, this Innocent name ſhall denote every thing that is Miſchievous to His *Majeſty*, and directly oppoſite to the intereſt of *White-Hall*, is more ſtrange. But the truth on't is, the Caſe now is come to this, That no Man whatever,

ever, can attend the Person of the *King*, or serve him in any of the most Honourable Offices at *Court*, and that sometime with the Exqence of his own Estate and Fortune: but he must be looked upon as a dangerous Person to the People, and as the worst of Men, that is a *Courtier*. And on the other side, Let a Man be what he will, as bad as *Twenty* years Rebellion, and Conversation with Bloud and War could make him; yet if no *Courtier*, he shall be the Darling, and the Delight of the People, and shall command their Votes and Suffrage. Let him be a Man of Sacriledge and Violence to *God*, and his *Church*; Let him hold his own and other Men's Lands, by the strength of two *Acts of Indemnity*: Let him be for *Rebellion*, *Schism*, *Faction*, *Toleration*, *Comprehension*, or whatever else is Dear and Precious in the *Saints esteem*; if he write but *Country-Man*, he is sure to carry the Day. Not that I think 'tis Essential to all Men that live in the *Country*, that have no Imploy at *Court*; to be endowed with these Excellent Qualities; God forbid! But this I say, But all men of these Mischievous Principles, against *King* and *Church*, that have any Designe to insinuate into the People, to creep into Place and Power, where the People can help them, they get in by this Artifice; And all Persons of the most Eminent Loyalty and Integrity that oppose them, and are not Competitors with them, are cast off with this Stratagem, *These are for the Court Party*, when perhaps they have no Concern there at all. So that in a very short time 'tis like to come to this, That none must be accounted *Lovers of the Country*, but the *Enemies of the King*: And 'tis pretty near it now: For, let these Gentlemen that seem to be so taken with this Distinction now, consider well, and consult their own Experience, and they shall find, that all the *Elections* for *Knights* and *Burgesses* of late, in any of the *Counties*, and *Corporations* of the *Land*, have been endeavoured to have been filled with such *Leavenned Men*; and under that Notion of *Good Country-Men* only. And in a little time, it is to be feared, that the Populacy will confirm it, as the *Cunning Men* design it to a *Phanatick* only: And an old fashioned *Loyal Cavalier*, must not think to shew his Head upon any Publick ——— lest he be deemed a *Courtier*. For the people are taught to believe, that neither the *King*, nor any about him, nor indeed, any that are highly for him, have any true Love for the *Country*; but that they design to Enslave them, and their Estates, and to bring all under an *Arbitrary Power* and *Bondage*. And from this gross, lewd, and False Conceit, they conclude, That it concerns all that Love Themselves, or their Posterities, to oppose with Might and Main, the *Court*, and all that adhere to it: And he that so doth, is a True Lover of the *People*, and a down-right *Country-Man*. And we find this Name made use of always, to serve the most Disloyal and Phanatick Ends, and Purposes, in all Counties: and it seems to be as well fitted for those Ends, as any of the former Religious Names of *Sober* and *Godly Party* were, and better for those that will not be wrought upon by *Pious Pretences*, and *Religious Arts*, and *Wheedles*: Yet will be strangely affected, when they are told, that their Secular Concerns are in Danger. And any that pretend so much Love to Them, as to stand up against all Underminers of these their Dear *Diana's*, shall be sure to be their *Darling* for ever: For we see, the Generality of the *Country* have more Care for their *Commons*, and *Country Priviledges*, than for their *Consciences*: Nay, will often venture Them, to secure those. And those Persons, for instance, that declare for this one thing, *viz.* Against giving away the *Countries Monies*, (be the Occasions of State, what the will) except by it, they can hope to make New and Great Incroachments upon the *Prerogative*, shall be accounted the *Countries Friends* for ever, and never want their Vote at any time.

So that you see 'tis a very serviceable, cunning, and mighty obliging Distinction; and is the likeliest to pull down *White-hall* of any yet; and principally for this reason, because it obtains so much amongst the *Royal Party*. For as they were always a sort of good Natured Persons, and innocent themselves, so were apt ever to believe well of others too, and to be caught with fine Names, till they had believed themselves into the *Saints Yoke*, and their Families into want, and their Estates into villainage; and so will do Agen, if they be not very wary.

The truth of it is, the suffering *Cavalier* had the most reason at first, to allow this distinction of any Man; and I am almost in the mind, was the first that made it, ——— But then it was upon a particular reason, and that at a particular time. I will not say how reasonable and just his discontents then were; but certainly the then New States-men in *Sixty* and upwards laid the Ax to the Root of the Royal-Oak;

when they purſued that curſed Rule in their New politicks, *Obliege your Enemies, you are ſure of your Friends*; which blew up more of the Royal party, then either *Cromwells* Plots or Army; and was more diſtructive to them, than that fatal *Naſeby*; for then ſome Eſcaped, but this Maxime Kills all if well followed, and that in their own Quarters; and makes their dear Soveraigne (for whom they fought) to be their executioner; this kind of uſage, no doubt, exaſperated the Kings ſuffering friends, if not againſt the Cauſe, yet againſt the then Court; and gave them too great occaſion to believe, they had worſe enemies at *Whiteball* when the *KING* was come home, than before; for before, they had but what they looked for; but to be ſplit in their Harbour, and to revive their greateſt Stabbs from the Court-friends, went to the very heart; and hence I fear, came the oppoſition between the Court and Country. But now Gentlemen, conſider thoſe Statesmen are dead, and their politicks ſtink, as well as their names; and thoſe New-ruling men, that drew ſword both againſt Father and Son, and ſucked of the ones blood, and the others Wine, are moſt of them gone to their place; and Loyalty that then Languiſht, begins now to revive, and meets with better encouragement, then when Rebels and Regicides were in place and power; and how his Majeſty ſees with his own ſpectacles & knows (God bleſs him) though at too dear a rate, that the old Cavelier is the beſt Subject, and loves and ſerves him beſt, and is trueſt to his intereſt; and that all others pretend they what they will, are hollow at the heart, and will love as they obey, with abundance of diſtinction and caution; that is, juſt ſo well as may conſiſt with their brethrens, their own, and their cauſes intereſt; Now then, there is not the ſame reaſon for theſe mens prejudices againſt the Court, as once there was; for Sir. *John Fresbyter* is now pretty well known, and perhaps is the moſt contemptible of all pretenders to an intereſt there; and therefore is fain to uſe his old Tricks, and his new *Shibboleth*, to creep into Place and Power to ſave a ſinking, and dying cauſe: and if the Gentry and Nobility would keep from a ſecond time, under the Fanatick Tyranny, and from Grinding any more in theſe *Philiſtine* mills, they muſt not allow of ſuch ſerviceable diſtinctions as thoſe are for their curing purpoſes. Chooſe therefore of the Country men for your Repreſentatives, men of Religion and Loyalty, that love the *Church* and *KING*; and be ſure there is no danger in ſuch; but all others whatſoever, let them pretend what they will, are hollow within, and mean no good to either God or Church, to King or Country, but are, by their old ſlie Tricks, and new Artifices, ſeeking an opportunity of deſtroying a glorious Church a ſecond time; and of Acting the ſecond part of the ſame Tragedy; and inſinuating Agen, craftily into the good opinions of the people, by the pretences of Love and Zeal to their good and welfare. Of theſe beware, and take this as a certain truth; that a houſe of Commons made up of ſuch Country-men as the pretended Godly party cry up, will be the moſt Antimonarchical ſeditious, and Fanatical Aſſembly in the Chriſtian world. From which, *Good Lord Deliver us.*

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